



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. XVII

NOVEMBER, 1916

No. 2

EDITORIAL COMMENT

CAN CULTURE BE ACQUIRED IN THE TRAINING SCHOOL?

In his paper on the Education of the Nurse, in this issue of the JOURNAL, Dr. Brewer makes a strong appeal for that culture in a nurse "which makes her easy in any company" and which gives her the ability "to gain the confidence of those with whom she has to deal, without creating that familiarity which breeds contempt." Can the social training which would be necessary to meet Dr. Brewer's demand be acquired in the training school? Not only in public health work, which he is here discussing, but in private nursing and in institutional work, as well, are these graces needed.

Some few years before Dr. Weir Mitchell died, it was our privilege to be a guest at his home at dinner, when this subject was discussed. He made the same plea for provision during training for giving the nurse more of those social graces which are so necessary for success in life. When we made the assertion that the hospital could not make up for home deficiencies, he took as an illustration of his belief that it could, the case of a brother and sister having had equal education, coming from a home of plain people where neither had had social advantages, of any kind. If the boy were placed at either Annapolis or West Point and the girl at one of the leading training schools of the country, the young man would be fitted not only for his profession, but also to hold his own in any society, while his sister, upon graduation, though equally well prepared for the performance of her professional duties would be, socially, just where she was when she entered the school. Dr. Mitchell insisted that the fault is with the training school, that it is just as much its business to train young women in broader social culture as it is the business of the military and naval schools.

As years go on we recognize an improvement in this respect in certain training schools where the superintendents have appreciated the necessity of giving greater attention to the social development of their pupils, but the great majority of our schools, large and small, still go on in the same old way of giving a one-sided training to their students.

In some directions the old military discipline in hospitals is giving way to a less formal relationship between the officers and the pupils and, while we have not yet reached the point of self-government, the pupil is not looked upon quite so much as a spoke in the wheel as she was at the time of our own training. Still there seems a tremendous field to be covered before we attain methods which will bring the pupil in closer touch with her superintendent and which shall assure that both the superintendent and her associates shall be ladies of culture whose conduct may be an inspiration.

THE GRADING OF NURSES

The report of the Committee on Grading of Nurses of the American Hospital Association has been published in a special pamphlet, as it was found too lengthy to be included with the proceedings of the recent convention in the *Modern Hospital*. The report contains much that is of interest and the committee makes many recommendations which are not entirely new and which leave the problem unsolved.

The committee has gone over the whole field of nursing and has stated in condensed form the defects of the entire nursing system with which nurse leaders are familiar. It makes helpful suggestions in a number of directions, one of which is that all special hospitals, particularly those for tuberculosis, infectious diseases and chronic ailments, as well as those for mental diseases, should be registered and should, through affiliation, give at least one year of general hospital training.

The committee gives its endorsement to the idea that all hospitals shall be registered and that all nurses shall be required to register, which is what nurses all over the country are working for in their efforts for compulsory registration.

The report should be carefully studied, as it is impossible to give an adequate presentation of it in our limited space.

PUBLIC HEALTH LECTURES FOR PUPIL NURSES

Jane E. Hitchcock, who is so well known in New York State from her long connection with the Henry Street Settlement and because of her service as secretary of the Board of Nurse Examiners, is prepared to give, this winter, a course of lectures on Public Health Nursing to pupil nurses. The object in view is to acquaint those in training with public health work, showing the opportunities in this rapidly-growing branch of work and the methods to be followed in preparing for it. A moderate charge will be made for the lectures, in addition to traveling expenses.

No one is better qualified to speak on this subject than is Miss Hitchcock who, as a public health worker, has been brought in touch with great numbers of young graduates in a way which has given her an opportunity to judge of their lack of practical preparation for this department of work, and it is from this experience and from her work as an examiner that she has drawn the material for her lectures. When we read such papers as that by Dr. Isaac W. Brewer in this issue of the JOURNAL and that by Dr. William DeKleine, extracts from which were published in the October issue, we realize that it is not nurses alone who feel the need of higher education and better preparation for public health work.

COUNTING THE MEMBERSHIP

Many of our readers who are interested in the growth and development of the American Nurses' Association will be interested to know that the secretary has been making a re-count of the membership, eliminating, so far as is possible, any duplication. Prompt answers to questions are greatly appreciated at such times, as indeed, at all times. The estimation of the membership in any given state is often delayed by the failure of even one association to reply. If the secretary of that association fails to answer, a preceding secretary is often appealed to, or some well known nurse in the locality and, as a last resource, the ever-burdened superintendent is asked to hunt up the alumnae secretary and her address. She usually does it. In some instances five or six letters are sent to various individuals before the secretary of an association can be ascertained or the number of members secured.

If all associations filled out their credential cards accurately at the time of the convention, much of this uncertainty would be eliminated, for the secretary and the treasurer of the American Nurses' Association are constantly in touch and information sent to one is at once for-

warded to the other. Small associations, however, fail to fill in their membership figures, and associations not sending a delegate do not return the cards at all, so it is impossible to start fresh each year with all statistics in hand.

The estimate of membership made at the time of the San Francisco meetings was 26,000. Since that time 28 associations have been admitted and 4 have resigned. The membership now stands, as nearly as can be estimated, at 31,500.

What might not be done by such a company of nurses united in common effort for any of our great projects: better education of the nurse, better care of the sick in all classes of society, public health propaganda, state registration, etc.? And we must remember that their common meeting ground is the American Nurses' Association and their medium of exchange for ideas is **THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING**.

THE JOURNAL AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

We feel sure that a most acceptable gift from one nurse to another would be a year's subscription to **THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING**. As in former years, we are prepared to send a Christmas certificate to the recipient if the order reaches us, at the Rochester office, by the 22d of December. Addresses should be accurate and if the December issue is desired, it should be so stated.